



PHIMS

Public Health Issue Management System

When disease occurs in Washington State, DOH and local public health work together to collect information and conduct investigations into the causes, spread and containment of chronic and contagious diseases. Called Notifiable Conditions, these diseases must be reported to public health authorities by health care providers, health care facilities, laboratories, veterinarians, food service establishments, child day care facilities, and schools.

PHIMS provides local public health a way to collect, manage and report Notifiable Conditions reports, disease outbreaks and disease investigations.

Reporting on PHIMS is done over the internet giving easy access to the system. PHIMS standardizes the way the information is collected and reported. This assures that each report will contain the same pieces of information in the same order.

The strictest level of security has been used to protect PHIMS and to assure the security and confidentiality of its information. To access PHIMS, each user will be required to use a digital certificate contained on a physical "token." Each user is also assigned different access depending on what disease investigation role they perform.

Because it is available from any computer (with the proper digital certificate token) PHIMS is easy to access and reports can be created in a more timely manner. The standardized data makes the information more reliable and of higher quality.

The collective database becomes a valuable tool for epidemiologists as they conduct disease research and surveillance.

For more information about PHIMS, contact the Help Desk at 360-236-4458 or toll-free at 877-889-3377.